The Deliverance of Mucukunda
From the Krsna Book Chapter 51

Scene One - The Court of King Jarasandha

(Music - Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony. A guard and a minister stand by the king as Kalayavana widows enter solemnly.)

Jarasandha: My dear daughters, Asti and Prapti, welcome home! But, tell me, why are you not in the company of your lord and master, the glorious King Kalayavana??

Asti: Dear Father, we are now unprotected by our husband and have come to take shelter of you for it is said in the Vedic Shastras that a women should not be unprotected at any stage of her life. In childhood, she is protected by her father, in youth by her good husband and in old age by her brothers, sons or other family members.

Prapti: We are young women and have no one else to turn to.

Jarasandha: What has become of your husband??

Prapti: He is dead, Father.

Jarasandha: Dead?

Prapti: Yes, as you may have heard, our husband arranged for a grand wrestling tournament and invited the two cowherds Krsna and Balarama to fight in competition with great wrestlers like Canura and Mustika.

Asti: These two boys, Krsna and Balarama, easily defeated all the great wrestlers and this greatly angered our husband, King Kamsa, because he had always been the enemy of Krsna and Balarama.

Prapti: But, when in his anger our husband threatened his family members, Krsna jumped over the royal guards, beat our husband to death with His bare hands and triumphantly dragged his body by his hair around the arena to the delight of His family members, the Yadu dynasty.

Jarasandha: That Crow, Krsna! King Kamsa was my strongest ally! The sneaky tactics of those mischievous, young Yadus shall

not go unpunished! In a fair fight, Krsna would never have been able to kill King Kamsa! A true warrior would never resort to such an unchivalrous display! He killed my friend by surprise, otherwise, how could such a young Boy defeat such a great man? But, fear not, my daughters, I will avenge your husband's death. I shall see to the death of these two boys, Krsna and Balarama, and to the annihilation of their entire dynasty! I shall rid the world of the Yadu Dynasty!! (to minister) Immediately, prepare three military phalanxes to lay siege to the city of Mathura!

Scene Two - The Battlefield

(Krsna and Balarama face Jarasandha's army)

Krsna: My dear elder brother, Balarama, You are the Lord of the Universe and the Protector of the Yadu Dynasty. The Yadu Dynasty senses a great danger from all these soldiers of Jarasandha. They are just like an ocean about to cover an ocean at any moment. I request You to sit down on Your chariot and kill all these soldiers. Both of us have descended on this earth just to annihilate such bellicose forces and to give protection to the faithful devotees. So, now we have the opportunity to fulfill our mission.

Jarasandha: (to Krsna) O Lowest among men, Killer of Your own relatives, it will be a great dishonor for me to fight with a boy like You. You are not even a ksatriya, but a coward who hides Himself in the forest in fear of His enemies. And You, Balarama, if You like, You can stand and fight along with Him. And, if You have any patience, then You can wait to be killed by my arrows!

Krsna: My dear King Jarasandha, those who are actually heroes do not talk much. Rather, they show their prowess by fighting. Because you are talking much, it appears that you are assured of your death in this battle. We do not care to hear you anymore, because it is useless to hear the words of a person who is going to die or who is very distressed.

(Lights dim, use some special effects)

Narrator: (over sound effects) A terrible fight ensued. Jarasandha's army so vastly outnumbered Krsna's that it appeared as if the sun had covered by clouds. The women had been watching from the rooftops and when they were not able to see Krsna, some of them fainted. Krsna's arrows appeared

as a whirlwind of blazing fire and gradually all the elephants began to fall down, their heads severed by the arrows.

Similarly, all the horses fell and the chariots also, along with their flags, chariot fighters and chariot drivers. Almost all the infantry soldiers fell on the field of battle, their heads, hands and legs cut off and their blood began to flow just like the waves of a river. In that river, the arms of the fighters appeared to be snakes, their heads appeared to be tortoises and the dead bodies of the elephants appeared to be small islands. The bodies of the horsed appeared to be sharks. The hands and legs of the infantry soldiers floated like seaweed and the bows of the soldiers appeared to be waves of that river.

Lord Balarama began to fight with His club in such a heroic way that the river of blood created by Krsna overflowed. Those who were cowards became very much afraid, seeing this ghastly and horrible scene but those who were heroes began to talk delightedly amongst themselves about the two brothers. Balarama arrested Jarasandha with ropes but Krsna released him.

Krsna: My dear Balarama, there is no need to take Jarasandha prisoner. All of his soldiers have been killed or else they have run away. Also, he is a family member and has many responsibilities. He should be free to go home.

(Jarasandha returns to his "kingdom" at the side of the stage.)

Jarasandha: Alas, I have been defeated by these insignificant cowherd boys. To hell with my being born a ksatriya! I shall retire to the forest and perform austerities, never to be seen again!

Minister: Do not retire, O great King, we are all dependent upon your strength! This is but a temporary setback. Ordinarily, this could not have happened. It must have been simply ill-luck! But, there was no fault in your cause for fighting. Please rest, regroup your forces and fight again with Krsna on another day.

Jarasandha: Of course, that sounds right, thank you. Call my captains, we will make our battle plans.

(Minister hurries off. Jarasandha schemes.)

Scene Three - The Battlefield

Krsna: My dear Balarama, Jarasandha has now rebuilt his army for the seventeenth time and he is preparing to attack our city again!!

Balarama: Ha! You would have thought he would have learned his lesson by now!

Krsna: We have an additional problem to deal with today. Narada Muni, in order to appease the wrath of Garga Muni, will instruct the Yavana king known as Kalayavana to attack the Yadu Dynasty. We shall have to deal with him simultaneously.

Balarama: My Lord, You are all powerful! This problem is nothing for you!

Krsna: My dear Brother, Jarasandha is very strong and vengeful and while we are engaged in fighting Kalayavana on one side, Jarasandha may attack on the other side and kill our family and friends. We cannot trust him. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, I am going to construct a formidable fort within the sea to protect them. It will be called Dwaraka and neither man nor beast will be able to approach it. My dear Brother, please take charge of this fort and protect our family.

Scene Four - Kalayavana's Court

Kalayavana: My arms itch for battle! Where is there a combatant who can match my power? I want to show the world my strength! Let everyone see Kalayavana's power! Is there no one to challenge me? Who would dare defy me? I grow so bored here! Let someone just come forward and try to vex me! Is there nothing but impotent cowards in this world? I just want a fair fight!
(Sri Narada Muni enters.) Who are you? You appear most dazzling, like the sun god! How did you manage to get past my guards? And what is your business here, sir?

Narrator: I am Narada, the order carrier of Lord Visnu. By His grace, I can enter any place and I can understand all events. My business in coming here is simply to please Your Lordship.

Kalayavana: Hmmmm. Obviously, you are not an ordinary man. I am a

powerful king, supported by huge armies and surrounded by this, until today, impenetrable fortress. Yet, you have defied me by some mysticism that I cannot fathom! Hmmmm. You know all events, do you? Then tell me if this - who is in possession of the mightiest army in the world? Is it mine? If such an army belongs to someone else, then I want to fight with them! I want to destroy them ruthlessly! I have yet to find a suitable combatant to match my immeasurable strength. Is there anyone?

Narada Muni: Sir, I know your history. Once, Gargamuni Rsi, the priest of the demigods was taunted by his brother-in-law. Hearing this taunt, some members of the Yadu Dynasty laughed at him. Becoming angry, Gargamuni wanted to produce someone who very fearsome to the Yadus, so he pleased Lord Siva in order to get the benediction of a son. He begot that son in the womb of a woman of the fierce Yavana tribe. Now, O Yavana king, your pride can be cut only if you face the Yadu Dynasty with your armies. The Yadavas are certainly invincible. They are indeed the challenge you seek!

Kalayavana: Invincible? Ha! We shall see. Kalayavana does not fear anyone! In whichever direction I turn, my enemies fear me! These Yadavas you speak so highly of will be cut down to size by my arrows! My dear Narada Muni, please go and warn them of my coming. Let them be fully prepared to meet their deaths at my hands!

(calls) Soldiers! We will besiege the city of Mathura with our full might! Let us prepare for battle and march to the city of Mathura at daybreak!!

(to Narada Muni) Please sir, be comfortable and tell me all about this Krsna.

(Lights dim, music)

Scene Five - The Battlefield

Kalayavana: (looking) It is just as Sri Narada has said - Krsna is gorgeous! I could not believe my ears and now I cannot believe my eyes! He is unlike any person I have ever seen! He is a formidable foe, for sure! How is it that He is so bold as to come before my entire army and I, weaponless? What tactic is this? I shall have to meet Him alone and crush Him with my bare hands!

(He chases after Krsna. Kalayavana appears to move quickly but is unable to catch Krsna who moves effortlessly ahead of Kalayavana.

He comes near the resting figure of Mucukunda, previously unnoticed.)

Now, I am nearer. I will capture Him within a cave of these mountains. O You coward, Krsna, I have heard that you are a great hero, born in the proud Yadu dynasty, but I see that You are verily running from fighting like a coward!! It is not worthy of Your good name and family tradition! You will be forever known as "the Krsna Who left the Battlefield!" Turn and face me! Stand and fight! You coward! You rascal! I shall soon vanquish you!

(to Mucukunda) Oh, here You are! You are so confident that you have eluded me that you are sleeping in this cave. I will kick you with my foot! There, you useless fellow! What are you doing here in this cave? I am searching for battle here!

(Kalayavana kicks Mucukunda and immediately there is an explosion with smoke and special effects. Kalayavana falls down dead. Mucukunda rises and greets Krsna respectfully.)

Pariksit: O Sukadev Goswami, please tell me about the sleeping man. Who was he? Why was he sleeping in a cave in the mountain? How did he acquire so much power that instantly, by his glance, Kalayavana was burned to ashes?

Sukadev Goswami: O Pariksit, this person was born in the family of the great king Iksvaku, in which Lord Ramachandra appeared and his father was King Mandhata. He himself was a great soul, a follower of brahminical culture, truthful to his promise and was known as Mucukunda. He was so powerful that the demigods used to ask him to please help them to fight against the demons. The commander-in-chief of the demigods, Karttikeya, once asked the King, having taken too much trouble in fighting with the demons, retire from fighting and take rest.

Kartikeya: My dear king, you have sacrificed everything for the sake of the demigods. You had a very nice kingdom, undisturbed by any kind of enemy but you left that kingdom, neglecting your opulence and personal ambitions. Due to your long absence, your family and ministers have all passed away in due course of time. It is said, "Time and tide wait for no man." Now, even if you retire to your home, you will find that no one is living there. The influence of time is very strong; no one can supersede it. Please take from me any benediction that you desire except for the benediction of liberation from this material world. Liberation can only be

granted by Lord Visnu.

Mucukunda: I want to sleep now, as I have not slept for many, many years due to the fighting. I want the following benediction from you - grant me the power to burn, by my mere glance, anyone who dares to disturb my sleep and awakens me untimely.

Kartikeya: Granted.

Sukadev Goswami: Krsna wanted to deliver His devotee Mucukunda from his austerity of sleeping but because Krsna knows everything of the past, present and future, He can accomplish more than one thing at the same time. Therefore, Krsna arranged that Kalayavana would be killed by Mucukunda. Krsna did not want to kill Kalayavana because Kalayavana came from a class lower than sudra and was thus not a fit opponent for Him.

Mucukunda: My dear Lord, may I inquire how it is that You happen to be in this cave in the mountain? Who are you? I can see that Your feet are just like soft lotus flowers. How could You walk in this forest, which is full of thorns and hedges? I am certainly surprised to see You! Are You not, therefore, the Supreme Personality of Godhead? O Best among human beings, if You think that I am fit to know Your identity, then kindly tell me who You are?

Krsna: My dear king Mucukunda, it is practically impossible to tell all about My appearance and activities. Perhaps you know that My incarnation Anantadeva has unlimited mouths and has been trying to narrate My name, fame, qualities and pastimes since the beginning of time - but still, He has not been able to finish. Therefore, it is not possible to know how many names and forms I possess. Since you are so anxious to know about Me, I may inform you that I have descended upon this planet just to annihilate the demons and establish My devotees. At the request of Lord Brahma the Creator, I have appeared in the Yadu Dynasty as the Son of Vasudev. My dear king, you are My great devotee since long ago, you may now see Me to your heart's content. You may take from Me any benediction that you would like, as well.

Mucukunda: My dear Lord, You are the Supersoul of everyone and You can understand everything! Now, I am free from the material contamination of desire for the temporary pleasures of this world. I do not wish to enjoy this world, nor do I

wish to take advantage of merging into Your effulgence. Nor do I wish to meditate upon Your localized aspect of Paramatma, seated within the hearts of all living entities. I know now that simply by taking shelter of You, personally, I shall become completely peaceful and undisturbed.

Krsna: My dear king, I am very much pleased with your statement. I therefore give you the special benediction that you will be able to think of Me always. In your next birth, you will be born in the family of first class Vaisnavas and in that life, your only business will be to engage yourself in My transcendental loving service.

(Mucukunda circumambulates the Lord. They part in opposite directions. Krsna leaves the stage.)

Scene Six - The Cave

Mucukunda: I have slept for so long that the Ages have changed and now everything is depleted by the influence of the Age of Kali, the winter of man. The stature of men has been reduced. Similarly, the trees have been reduced in size. I will travel north to Gandhamandan Mountain and stay there, executing penance and austerities for the rest of my life.

(He leaves.)

Narrator: Lord Krsna returned to the city of Mathura where it was being attacked by Jarasandha's forces for the eighteenth time. Krsna wanted to put an end to this disturbance. He wanted to prevent the killing of more soldiers and attend to the more important business of pleasing His pure devotees. Therefore, Krsna and Balarama left the battlefield, without weapons, walking a long distance. Jarasandha followed Them, thinking that they were very much afraid of his military strength. Krsna and Balarama pretended to be very tired and climbed a tall mountain. Jarasandha searched for Them but, not finding Them he thought that He had trapped Them on the mountaintop and set fires all around. Jarasandha, thinking his mission successful, left Mathura and returned to his own kingdom. Krsna and Balarama jumped off the mountaintop to the ground and returned to Dwaraka, which was surrounded on all sides by the sea. The truth of the matter was that Krsna wanted to attend to a personal invitation from His devotee Rukmini. If an ordinary person leaves the battlefield, he is called a coward. But, whenever Krsna does something, it is for the highest transcendental purpose. Therefore, devotees glorify Krsna and

worship Him by the name Ranchorji, meaning one who leaves the battlefield.